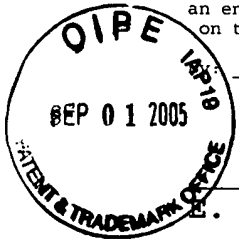


IBM-1 (20135*251)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

E. HELINSKI :
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SERIAL NO. 09/113,712 :
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FILED: JULY 10, 1998 : Art Unit: 3724
:
FOR: CONCENTRIC ALIGNMENT AND : Examiner: Jason D. Prone
DEVICE FOR DIES AND :
DIE STRIPPER :

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Sir:

In the Advisory Action dated July 18, 2005, Examiner Prone stated that "the specification and most importantly the title referred to this apparatus as a concentric alignment device. A concentric alignment has a common center or center point...The addition of the language [in the claims] that states the punches do not need to be perfectly aligned could be new matter and a direct contradiction to the title."

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the above position. The specification makes amply clear in various locations that what is intended by the present invention is a practical

optimization of the alignment which need not be a perfect alignment or result in perfect concentricity. Rather, the alignment and concentricity would be such that minimal friction is encountered by the punch as it passes through the die apertures. This results in achieving higher punch and die life. There is repeated support for this position in the specification.

The paragraph beginning at line 13 on page 17 of the specification discusses how the invention is practiced in order to eliminate components of sets which "did not fit well regardless of rotation or alignment". The term "not fit well" instead of "not fit perfectly" shows that perfect alignment/concentricity is not necessary.

In the paragraph beginning on line 15 of page 2 and extending to line 6 of page 3 the specification points out that what is intended by the invention is a method involving attempting to advance the punch "to determine a location of the first die relative to the second die where the punch will experience a least amount of frictional forces from walls of the punch receiving aperture of the first die and the punch receiving aperture of the second die when being advanced through the punch receiving aperture of the first die and the punch receiving aperture of the second die". This does not require perfect alignment/concentricity.

The paragraph beginning at line 15 on page 8 recognizes that "Often, punches and dies have extremely small clearances and

tolerances." The existence of any clearance and the permissibility of any tolerance necessarily means that a perfect alignment or perfect concentricity is not absolutely necessary.

In the paragraph beginning at line 15 on page 12 and extending to line 3 on page 13 the specification refers to a practice of the invention whereby the die apertures are "as optimally close as concentrically permitted by the dies and the upper housing and the lower housing". This portion of the specification is particularly notable in that it is referring to a general type of concentricity rather than perfect concentricity or a perfect alignment, as evidenced by the use of the words "optimally close". Similarly, use of the words "concentrically permitted" means that there could be less than perfect concentricity.

The specification in the paragraph beginning on the last line of page 14 and extending to line 16 of page 15 describes a practice of the invention which attempts "to advance the punch into the punch receiving passage in the second die to determine a location...where the punch will experience the least amount of frictional or interference forces from walls of the punch receiving apertures". This also clearly means that a perfect concentricity or perfect alignment is not necessary, but rather one which is sufficient or to permit advancement of the punch through the apertures.

The paragraph beginning at line 7 on page 16 also describes a

practice of the invention where first the components are positioned "to ensure free passage of the punch into the punch receiving aperture 40. Then, the upper die 25, lower die 26, upper housing, and/or lower housing may be rotated until the most concentric alignment between the punch receiving aperture 40 and punch receiving aperture 50 is achieved". In this context the "most concentric alignment" is in reference to the best alignment possible which permits free passage of the punch. This means that a perfect alignment or perfect concentricity is not necessary.

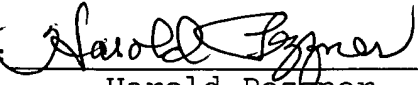
In view of the above when the word "concentric" in the title and in the specification is used, it is clear that such word is used in a context where perfect concentricity or perfect alignment is not intended. Rather, what is intended is one in which the concentricity/alignment is general or optimal in the sense of being sufficient to permit the punch to freely pass through the first die aperture and the second die aperture with minimum friction from the walls of those apertures.

In view of the above it is submitted that the title of the invention and the specification are consistent with the claims.

If Examiner Prone still believes there is an inconsistency between the title and specification as compared to the claims, the title and appropriate portions of the specification will be amended to assure consistency.

Respectfully submitted,

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